



EXCELSIOR GERMAN CENTER

Oakland, January 14, 2022

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Ein Frohes Neues Jahr 2022!

As I am writing these lines yet another virus variant surge is washing over us, and most people I am still in contact with are so sick of hearing about more record numbers of infected people, and another wave of event cancellations following. Some businesses have already reduced hours of operation as their staff is affected, the hospitals are filling (again) and everybody is asking: When will this finally end?

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It will end! Maybe not the way we were anticipating it, but experience tells us that this virus' deadly trail will eventually loosen its grip on us. We'll just have to hang in there, remain vigilant and continue getting vaccinations and booster shots.

Fortunately, there have been "good times" just recently, too: Our members Gerhard Holder and Werner Gemmer both celebrated their 90th birthdays in the last months! The birthdate feedback from our membership also told us that our lifetime member Gery Denzler turned 90 in 2021! And Monika Christy and Monika Barton both celebrated turning 80! **Wir gratulieren nachträglich!**

Although we had to cancel the in-person audience for our New Year's concert 2022, we were able to do a recording of the whole event, with musicians who tested negative (no COVID) prior to the event and therefore could perform on stage without using masks. Soon you will be able to watch the recording. Together with the Deutsche Musikverein we plan a "German Day" on October 16, 2022, in the Golden Gate Park in SF. And our Maifest may also be doable, we are keeping fingers crossed.

In order to have a better chance of organizing an in-person **spring membership meeting 2022** the EGC board of directors is moving the date to **Sunday, April 3** (at 2pm). It's likely that infection numbers will be low at this time of year. It also makes more sense as we sent the latest report (instead of a fall membership meeting) in November, only two months ago. Having a later spring membership meeting will give us more time in between meetings.

The nomination committee is, as usual, collecting applications for a board position now. In large numbers you elected Christine Beam, Barbara Clement and Thomas Kronemeyer to serve on this committee. They will be supported by Christiane Frederickson and Hannelore Avalos. The whole board of directors thanks Heike Feltes and Nancy Grabow for their willingness to also

serve on the nomination committee; and all our voting members for approving the 2022 financial budget.

If you have not yet paid your 2022 membership fee, please do so before January 31. More information on how to apply for a board position and/or payment options for your membership fee are provided by the nomination committee, in their attached letter.

Please, remain patient! I know it's a lot to ask for, as many of us did not anticipate yet another wave, and are simply tired of it. But we have to continue our efforts with hygiene protocols, physical distancing, masking and – most importantly – with vaccinations and booster shots, for as many people as we can possibly manage! If you are still meeting in the Excelsior building, please remember that everybody is there at their own risk! You will find hand sanitizers, disinfectants and even extra masks in case you may need those (mask wearing is mandatory indoors), and several rooms are equipped with air purifiers. Rooms need to be reserved through Hannelore Avalos and the number of users at a given time is strictly limited.

If you want to talk or need something from any board member, please contact us at our private numbers or use email. The EGC office isn't staffed regularly, so calling there may result in a delayed response. More news will be coming through the EGC radio show, email communications and the EGC website. However, if you do not use the internet, we will continue sending you updates via regular mail.

We are looking forward to hopefully meeting you all again in early April. Until then, please take care of yourself and your loved ones,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Petra Specht', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

(Petra Specht, for the EGC board of directors)

